UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

11 CV 6709

Robert Williams,

Plaintiff,

v.

Credigy Receivables, Inc.; and DOES 1-10, inclusive,

Defendants.

Civil Action No.:

COMPLAINT

SEP 29 701, S.D.C. S.D.C. S.D.C. S.D.C. N.Y.

For this Complaint, the Plaintiff, Robert Williams, by undersigned counsel, states as follows:

JURISDICTION

- 1. This action arises out of the Defendants' repeated violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq. ("FDCPA"), and the invasions of the Plaintiff's personal privacy by the Defendants and their agents in their illegal efforts to collect a consumer debt.
 - 2. Supplemental jurisdiction exists pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.
- 3. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), in that the Defendants transact business in this District and a substantial portion of the acts giving rise to this action occurred in this District.

PARTIES

- 4. The Plaintiff, Robert Williams ("Plaintiff"), is an adult individual residing in Paughquage, New York, and is a "consumer" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).
 - 5. The Defendant, Credigy Receivables, Inc. ("Credigy"), is a Nevada business

entity with an address of 112 N Curry Street, Carson City, Nevada 89703, operating as a collection agency, and is a "debt collector" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

- 6. Does 1-10 (the "Collectors") are individual collectors employed by Credigy and whose identities are currently unknown to the Plaintiff. One or more of the Collectors may be joined as parties once their identities are disclosed through discovery.
 - 7. Credigy at all times acted by and through one or more of the Collectors.

ALLEGATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL COUNTS

A. The Debt

- 8. The Plaintiff incurred a financial obligation (the "Debt") to a creditor (the "Creditor").
- 9. The Debt arose from services provided by the Creditor which were primarily for family, personal or household purposes and which meets the definition of a "debt" under 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).
- 10. The Debt was purchased, assigned or transferred to Credigy for collection, or Credigy was employed by the Creditor to collect the Debt.
- 11. The Defendants attempted to collect the Debt and, as such, engaged in "communications" as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(2).

B. Credigy Engages in Harassment and Abusive Tactics

- 12. Within the last year, the Defendants contacted Plaintiff's wife's former husband, Robert Gheaey, Mr. Gheaey's mother and daughter in an attempt to locate Plaintiff and disclosed that Plaintiff owed Debt.
 - 13. Defendants placed a call to Plaintiff's residential phone line and left a voice

message for Plaintiff.

- 14. In the voice message Defendants failed to identify the name of the debt collection entity.
- 15. Defendants also failed to inform Plaintiff that the communication was an attempt to collect a debt and everything Plaintiff said would be used for that purpose.
 - 16. Plaintiff called Defendants back in an attempt to negotiate settlement of the Debt.
- 17. Defendants refused to negotiate with Plaintiff and stated: "Just pay your damned bill!"
- 18. Defendants failed to inform Plaintiff of his rights under the state and federal laws by written correspondence within 5 days after the initial communication, including the right to dispute the Debt.

C. Plaintiff Suffered Actual Damages

- 19. The Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer actual damages as a result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct.
- 20. As a direct consequence of the Defendants' acts, practices and conduct, the Plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer from humiliation, anger, anxiety, emotional distress, fear, frustration and embarrassment.

<u>COUNT I</u> <u>VIOLATIONS OF THE FDCPA - 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq.</u>

- 21. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 22. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692b(1) in that Defendants contacted third parties and failed to identify themselves and further failed to confirm or correct

location information.

- 23. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692b(2) in that Defendants informed third parties of the nature of Plaintiff's debt and stated that the Plaintiff owed a debt.
- 24. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692b(3) in that Defendants contacted third parties in regards to the Plaintiff's debt on numerous occasions, without being asked to do so.
- 25. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692c(b) in that Defendants communicated with individuals other than the Plaintiff, the Plaintiff's attorney, or a credit bureau.
- 26. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d in that Defendants engaged in behavior the natural consequence of which was to harass, oppress, or abuse the Plaintiff in connection with the collection of a debt.
- 27. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d(6) in that Defendants placed calls to the Plaintiff without disclosing the identity of the debt collection agency.
- 28. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(11) in that Defendants failed to inform the consumer that the communication was an attempt to collect a debt.
- 29. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1) in that Defendants failed to send the Plaintiff a validation notice stating the amount of the Debt.
- 30. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(2) in that Defendants failed to send the Plaintiff a validation notice stating the name of the original creditor to whom the Debt was owed.
- 31. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(3) in that Defendants failed to send the Plaintiff a validation notice stating the Plaintiff's right to dispute the Debt

within thirty days.

- 32. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(4) in that Defendants failed to send the Plaintiff a validation notice informing the Plaintiff of a right to have verification and judgment mailed to the Plaintiff.
- 33. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(5) in that Defendants failed to send the Plaintiff a validation notice stating the Plaintiff's right to request the name and address of the original creditor.
- 34. The foregoing acts and omissions of the Defendants constitute numerous and multiple violations of the FDCPA, including every one of the above-cited provisions.
 - 35. The Plaintiff is entitled to damages as a result of Defendants' violations.

COUNT II VIOLATIONS OF NEW YORK GBL § 349 ENGAGING IN UNLAWFUL DECEPTIVE PRACTICES AND ACTS

- 36. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein at length.
- 37. The acts, practices and conduct engaged in by the Defendants and complained of herein constitute "deceptive acts and practices" within the meaning of Article 22A of the General Business Law of the State of New York, NY GBL § 349.
- 38. The Defendants willfully and knowingly engaged in conduct constituting deceptive acts and practices in violation of NY GBL§ 349.
- 39. The Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer actual damages as a result of the foregoing acts and practices, including damages associated with, among other things, humiliation, anger, anxiety, emotional distress, fear, frustration and embarrassment caused by the Defendants.

40. By virtue of the foregoing, the Plaintiff is entitled to recover actual damages, trebled, together with reasonable attorneys' fees.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff respectfully prays that judgment be awarded in the Plaintiff's favor and against the Defendants as follows:

- 1. Against the named the Defendants, jointly and severally, awarding the Plaintiff actual damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1);
- 2. Against each of the named the Defendants, awarding the Plaintiff statutory damages of \$1,000.00 pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k(a)(2)(A);
- 3. Against the named the Defendants, jointly and severally, awarding the Plaintiff actual damages, trebled, pursuant to NY GBL § 349;
- 4. Against the named the Defendants, jointly and severally, awarding the Plaintiff recovery of the costs of litigation and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(3);
- 5. Against the named the Defendants, jointly and severally, awarding the Plaintiff punitive damages in such amount as is found appropriate; and
 - 6. Granting the Plaintiff such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

TRIAL BY JURY DEMANDED ON ALL COUNTS

Dated: September 20, 2011

 Λ :

Respectfully s

Sergei Lemberg (SL 6331)

LEMBERG & ASSOCIATES L.L.C.

1100 Summer Street, 3rd Floor

Case 1:11-cv-06709-JSR Document 1 Filed 09/23/11 Page 7 of 7

Stamford, CT 06905 Telephone: (203) 653-2250 Facsimile: (203) 653-3424 Attorneys for Plaintiff